that the rate of interest on farmers loan may be reduced to 4 per cent simple interest and should not be compounded on arrears;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision on this;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government have decided to allow the farmers to secure, effective from kharif 2006-07, short-term credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3,00,000 on the principal amount.

Special package for relief to farmers

†2909 SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give a special package to provide relief to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the outlines of the proposals under consideration for special-package scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is drawing up a package for the districts worst affected by the incidence of suicide by farmers. The package would address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidiary income needs, through dairy, poultry and horticulture.

Agriculture production in Andhra Pradesh

2910. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of some of the agricultural products in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years has come down

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.